



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

23 APRIL 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Huntington Beach – Turlock Man Arrested and Roughly \$10 Million Worth of Drugs Seized

(U) An investigation into a Merced County drug trafficking operation resulted in a Turlock man's arrest after more than \$10 million worth of drugs – including methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin – was located at his Huntington Beach residence. Luis Armando Romero Jr. faces a one-count indictment for distributing meth based on an alleged sale in Merced County. On 6 April, authorities searched Romero Jr.'s Huntington Beach home and located approximately 280 lbs of meth, 25 kg of cocaine, 20 lbs of fentanyl pills, three kg of fentanyl powder, two lbs of heroin and over \$73,000 in cash.

SOURCE: 22 April 2021, [CBS Local](#)

(U) Sacramento – Omar Ameen Taken into ICE custody, Moved to Bakersfield

(U) A Sacramento refugee and auto mechanic locked up for more than two years and accused of terrorism has been taken into custody by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement after a federal judge slammed the government's case against Omar Ameen and ordered his release. Ameen was accused of being a member of ISIS, lying on his refugee application and of murdering an Iraqi police officer. Ameen is currently scheduled for a master hearing in front of an immigration judge in San Francisco later in June. Master hearings are usually the first step in the removal of someone from the country.

SOURCE: 22 April 2021, [KCRA](#)

(U) San Diego – Downtown Gaslamp District Shootings Lead to One Death and Four Injuries

(U) A suspect has been arrested in connection with a shooting in downtown San Diego's Gaslamp District in which one person was killed, and four others were wounded. At around 10:30 pm, police received reports of gunfire along the 500 block of J Street at Fifth Avenue, near the Pendry San Diego Hotel. When officers arrived, they found a 28-year-old man down on the sidewalk, in front of the hotel, suffering from a gunshot wound. The man died at the scene. The investigation is ongoing, but police believe the suspect was the instigator in the confrontations leading to the shootings; he had allegedly been bumping into people and verbally picking fights.

SOURCE: 22 April 2021, [NBC San Diego](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST LAND BORDER

(U) Texas – Border Patrol Apprehend Three Criminals in Less Than 24 Hours

(U) Laredo – Border Patrol agents apprehended a convicted sex offender, a man convicted of homicide, and an aggravated felon in three separate events in less than 24 hours. In the first incident, they apprehended a 34-year-old Mexican national previously convicted in 2004 for Sexual Abuse 3rd Degree and Burglary 3rd Degree in Des Moines, Iowa. The second incident occurred when Duval County Sheriff's Department turned over several individuals including a man convicted of manslaughter in 1988 out of Detroit. In the last incident, agents identified a Sureño gang member with an active warrant from Saint Charles, Illinois as he and others attempted to cross a border checkpoint.

SOURCE: 22 April 2021, [US CBP Newsroom](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Capitol Riot Arrests of Military, LEO, and Government Personnel Rises to 52

(U) Washington – As authorities investigating the 6 January attack on the US Capitol continue to pore over images and video of the riot, they have identified at least 52 active or retired military, law enforcement, or government service employees among the over 400 suspects arrested for their alleged actions at the Capitol. The arrests include over half a dozen ex-police officers and multiple former elected officials -- and represent some of the most significant and violent charges brought in connection with the insurrection. Military individuals who participated in the attack on the Capitol were about four times more likely to be involved in organizations such as the Proud Boys or Oath Keepers, which are now being probed by the Justice Department over their alleged role in helping plan and carry out the assault on the Capitol.

SOURCE: 23 April 2021, [Good Morning America](#)

(U) Iowa – Woman Pleads Guilty to Hate Crime Charges in Which She Tried to Kill Children

(U) Des Moines – Nicole Marie Poole Franklin, who told police in 2019 that she ran over a girl because she “was a Mexican,” pleaded guilty Wednesday to federal hate crime charges. Poole Franklin had been involved in three separate racist incidents in December 2019, according to two police departments. Footage from the Des Moines Police Department shows Poole Franklin intentionally ran over the leg of a 12-year-old boy, who is Black, and fled. About an hour later, she ran over Natalia Miranda, who was 14 at the time, as she walked to a basketball game, according to the Clive Police Department. An hour-and-a-half after she hit Miranda, Poole Franklin used racist slurs toward a clerk and customers at a convenience store and threw items at the clerk.

SOURCE: 23 April 2021, [WSVN](#)

(U) Texas – Man Indicted for Arson that Destroyed Water Pumping Stations

(U) Athens – Brandon Blake Neeley, 19, was arrested on 5 October 2020 as he attempted to leave the scene of a fire at the Dogwood Estates Water Company Pump No. 2 building. Four days earlier, another building belonging to Dogwood Estates that housed Pump No. 4, was also set ablaze. Dogwood Estates Water Company serves more than 400 Athens-area homes. After both Pump No. 2 and Pump No. 4 were destroyed, Dogwood was forced to use a backup pump not designed to bear the full load of customer demands. Neeley is charged with arson of property used in interstate commerce. If convicted, he faces up to 20 years in federal prison.

SOURCE: 22 April 2021, [Athens Daily Review](#)

(U) Utah – 23 Gang Members Convicted in Large-Scale Meth Ring

(U) Salt Lake City – Twenty-three people will spend time in prison for their alleged involvement in a large-scale methamphetamine distribution organization in Salt Lake County that was run by members of eight street gangs and supplied by a Mexican drug cartel. The FBI and Drug Enforcement Administration investigated the organized narcotics ring that was set up like a business to include security, counter-surveillance, secret codes, firearms, and large amounts of cash, with each member having a distinct role in the group. Members of the following street gangs were involved: Sureños, Nortenos, La Raza, Vario Chosen Few, East Side Raskals, Baby Regulators, Soldiers of Aryan Culture, and the Tiny Oriental Posse, according to the Utah United States Attorney's Office. 41 pounds of methamphetamine and 17 firearms were seized.

SOURCE: 22 April 2021, [KUTV](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Czech Republic – Russian Diplomats Expelled Amidst Spying Row

(U) Prague – The Czech government yesterday ordered Russia to remove most of its diplomatic staff from Prague. The announcement marks an escalation in a diplomatic row over the alleged role of Russian spies in a deadly blast at a Czech munitions depot in 2014. It is the worst dispute between the two countries in decades. Moscow has until the end of May to withdraw 63 embassy employees. The action is a reaction to activities of Russian secret services in the Czech Republic. The Czech counterintelligence service has repeatedly warned that the Russian Embassy — by far the biggest foreign mission in Prague — was being used as a base for undercover spies.

SOURCE: 22 April 2021, [Duetsche Welle](#)

(U) Italy – Accomplice in 2016 France Terror Attack Arrested in Italy

(U) Rome – Italian police have said they arrested a 28-year-old Albanian man suspected to be an accomplice in the 2016 terror attack in Nice, France, which claimed the lives of 86 people. The man, for whom a European arrest warrant was in place, was captured near Caserta, north of Naples, thanks to a coordinated effort between Italian, Albanian and French authorities. Eighty-six people were killed on Bastille Day 2016, when Tunisian-born Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlef ploughed a truck through crowds watching a fireworks display on the seaside promenade in Nice, in southern France. The 28-year-old Albanian man is suspected of having sold weapons to the attacker, Italian media reported.

SOURCE: 22 April 2021, [The Shillong Times](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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